

MAIL STOP — RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE
TO UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
EXAMINER'S ACTION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

I. Introduction

Applicant's Response is to an United States Patent and Trademark Office ("Patent Office") Examiner's Action ("Action") mailed August 3, 2005. In the Action, the examiner set a shortened statutory period for Applicant's reply of three months, *i.e.*, by November 3, 2005. Applicant submits herewith a request for an extension of three months, *i.e.*, to February 3, 2006, for Applicant to reply to the Action. Accordingly, Applicant's Response is timely as it is being filed on February 3, 2006, with a Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR § 1.8.

The Action is a Final Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant also submits a Request for Continued Examination with the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(e). Under 37 CFR § 1.114(d), "[i]f an applicant timely files a submission and fee set forth in Section 1.17(e), the Office will withdraw the finality of any Office Action and the submission will be entered and considered." For that reason, Applicant's Response is captioned as being under 37 CFR § 1.111.